

1678

THE REPORT *of the Inland - Common, House of* OF THE COMMITTEE OF THE Hon^{ble} *House of Commons* :

Appointed to Inspect the Examinations, given
in by *Dominick Langton*, Clerk, Formerly
a *Fryar* in this Kingdom,

nomination against
AGAINT
Lewis Meares, Esq; and other Protestant Gentlemen of the County of *Westmeath*; And the Proceedings thereon.

Veneris, 10. Die Augusti, 1711.

Ordered,

That the Report from the Committee, appointed to Inspect the Examinations given in by the said Dominick Langton against the said Lewis Meares, and other the said Protestant Gentlemen of the County of Westmeath, be Printed by such Person or Persons as Mr. Speaker shall appoint, and that no other Person do presume to Print the same.

Printed by *Francis Dickson* at the Union on Cork-Hill, 1711.

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THE

R E P O R T

OF THE

C O M M I T T E E

OF THE

Hon^{ble} *House of Commons*:

Appointed to Inspect the

E X A M I N A T I O N S

G I V E N I N B Y

Dominick Langton Clerk,

Formerly a Fryar in this Kingdom,

A G A I N S T

Lewis Meares, Esq; and other Protestant Gentlemen of the
County of Westmeath ; And the Proceedings thereon.

Mr. Speaker,

YO U R Committee in Obedience to the Order of this House, whereby they were directed to Inspect the Examinations given in by *Dominick Langton Clerk*, formerly a Fryar in this Kingdom, against *Lewis Meares*, Esq; and other Protestant Gentlemen in the County of Westmeath, and to Enquire into the Proceedings that were had thereon, and to Report the same with their Opinion therein to the House, met accordingly, and Summoned the said *Dominick Langton*, and other the Parties Concern'd in that Prosecution, to appear before Your Committee. That Pursuant to the said Summons, the said *Dominick Langton* appeared before Your Committee, on Friday the Third Day of this Instant *August*, and then, and there Delivered himself in the following Words ; viz. *That he came to shew his Respects to this Honourable House, He does not decline in the least, that this Business should be brought to Tryal ; That he is willing to Seal with the last drop of his Blood, what he swore against the Gentlemen of the County of Westmeath. At the same time he is Summoned by the House of Lords to give his Attendance at Ten a Clock there to.*

to Morrow, and to bring all his Papers relating to that Matter, before their Lordships, and being Domestick Chaplain to the Bishop of *Offaly*, he cannot Answer any Questions to this Honourable House, without the Leave of the House of Lords.

Being desired to Answer to a Question propos'd ; viz. When he was Summoned to Attend this Committee, he Answered, He would make no Answer without the Leave of the House of Lords.

THAT Your Committee Inspected the Examinations against the said *Lewis Meares* and other Protestant Gentlemen of the County of *Westmeath*, in which Examinations the said *Dominick Langton* Swore, That for Nine or Ten Years before he gave in his said Examination, he heard *Lewis Meares* at several Times speak Disrespectfully of the Restoration of the Royal Family ; And that the said *Lewis Meares*, and one Captain *William Gamble* reproved the Examinant for reflecting in his Sermon, Preach'd in *Rathconrath* Church, on the Rebellion against K. Charles the I. and that the said *Lewis Meares* had attempted to Corrupt the Loyalty of the said *Dominick Langton*'s Principles, as to the Doctrines of *Passive-Obedience*, and *Non-Resistance*, and reproved him for Preaching that Doctrine. And that one Captain *Newstead* at another time Declared to the Examinant, That the Change newly made in Her Majesty's Ministry, was with Design to bring in the *Pretender* ; and that he the said *Newstead* would Engage as many as he could ; and that upon this Discourse with the said *Newstead*, the Examinant not only feared, but verily believed, that a general Insurrection, or rising in Rebellion was on Foot to bring in the *Pretender* : And that thereupon he the Examinant Engaged one *Jeremiah Warren*, Servant to *Lewis Meares*, to Watch and Observe what he could in relation to any Plot that might be Hatching. And that some time after, in the Month of *September* last, *Richard Newstead* being at Mr. *Gamble*'s House said, He expected his Son would come to him there from *Meares-Court*, whither he had sent him with a Letter, which Letter the Examinant depos'd he did Conjecture to be a Letter to stir up and Edge on *Lewis Meares* and his Friends in the aforementioned Design. And that the Examinant some Time after, meeting the said *Jeremiah Warren*, Servant to the said *Lewis Meares*, asked the said *Warren*, what his Thoughts were on the Business on which *Newstead*'s Son went to *Meares-Court*, and that *Warren* told the Examinant, That *Lewis Meares* received *Newstead*'s Son very kindly, and took him into his Closet; whereupon *Jeremy Warren* listened to their Conversation in the Closet, and observed *Newstead* brought to *Lewis Meares* a great long Parchment, which *Lewis Meares* refused to Sign ; but that *Warren* was afterwards told by a Fellow-Servant of his, that *Lewis Meares* Signed the Parchment on the Third of *October*, at the Fair of *Ballymore*, and in his said Examinations, Incerts several Discourses and Disputes with one *George Jones*, *Mungo Campbell* and others, relating to the Doctrine of *Passive-Obedience*, and the Affronts that were put on him for Preaching that Doctrine. And in the Close of his Examinations deposeth, That he did not Depose any thing in his Examination, out of Passion, Resentment, or Revenge, but purely to Discharge his Holy Function, most grossly Abused by *George Jones* Junior, and to move the Government to have

have a watchful Eye over People whom he feared were Entering into an Association, and fomenting Rebellion against Her Majesty. And in his Additional, or further Examinations, the said *Dominick Langton* Swores, That either Mr. *Magan*, or his Brother Mr. *Kelly* shewed the Examinant the Form of an Oath of Association, in a Printed Pamphlet which they supposed was, what was contained in the said Parchment. And further Depoosed, That about a Fortnight after Her Majesty's Accession to the Throne, the Examinant *Dominick Langton*, being at *Mears's* House, who usually after Dinner, drank King *William's* Health, the Examinant asked *Meares*, why he did not Drink the Queen's Health? to which the said *Meares* replied, that Name was Death to him. And further Depoosed, that Mr. *Newstead* told him, That all those that were against *Passive-Obedience* were ready to Rise, rather than suffer their Throats to be Cut by the said new Ministry; and having asked how Mr. *Jones*, Mr. *Bowen*, and others stood affected, he said, that he the said *Newstead* said, he would Edge them on, and Head them whilst he was able to Stand; and that all the *Low-Church-men* were ready to Rise; which Discourse of the said *Newstead* the Examinant Swears, put him into a Dread of a general Insurrection, which made him the Day following to Communicate it to Major *Edward Fitz-Gerald* of *Pierstown*, and some Days following to the said *Jeremy Warren*, and then desired the said *Warren* to Observe the said *Newstead's* Discourse, if he should see him at *Meares's* House, for which the Examinant assured the said *Jeremy Warren* a Reward, especially if the Duke of *Ormonde* should come over Lord Lieutenant as was Expected.

Your Committee inspected the Examinations of *Jeremy Warren*, taken before the Lords Justices and Council, who Swears he never had any Discourse with *Dominick Langton* about any Message brought to his Master *Lewis Meares*, nor any thing of an Association or Conspiracy, and deny's that ever *Dominick Langton*, or his Brother took Notice to him of any Association, neither had he any Directions from the said *Dominick Langton* to take Notice thereof, or to give him any Notice of any Association or Conspiracy; and having inspected the Examination of the said Major *Edward Fitz-Gerald*, taken before the Lords Justices and Council, the said *Edward Fitz-Gerald* in his Examination, denies that *Dominick Langton*, ever advised with him therein, or that he the said *Fitz-Gerald* advised the said *Dominick Langton*, to inform the Government of the aforesaid Parchment.

Michael Langton Brother of the said *Dominick Langton*, who by Order of the Lords Justices and Council, was brought up in Custody of a Messenger, gave in a very long Examination before Mr. Justice *Coote* the Fourteenth Day of *December*, One Thousand Seven Hundred and Ten: In which there are very material Variances and Matters inserted contrary to the Examinations given in by the said *Dominick Langton*, tho' we must observe that Extraordinary Methods were used by the said *Dominick Langton*, to prepare his Brother *Michael*, before he gave in his Examinations aforesaid, there being the following Paragraph in the Examination of the said *Michael*, viz.

The Examinant further saith, that he the Examinant arrived in Dublin about Six of the Clock in the Evening Yesterday, and Lodged at the *Talbot* in *Thomas-street*, that he did not see the said *Dominick Langton* till this Morning about eight or nine of the Clock, at which time the Examinant went to the Sign of the *Wheat-Sheaf* in *Thomas-street*, where the said *Dominick* Lodged ; and after some Congratulatory Expressions, which he the said *Dominick* made use of to the Examinant, he the said *Dominick* Acquainted the Examinant with the Reasons why the Examinant was sent for, and withal asked the Examinant whether he the Examinant remembered the Discourses which *Jerry* had concerning Captain *Newstead* and Mr. *Lewis Meares* in the County of *Westmeath* ; the Examinant made answer that he did, and repeated the words, whereupon the said *Dominick* said he was glad that he remembered it, and then desired the Examinant to go along with him to Mr. *Higgins* the Clergyman's, whereupon the said *Dominick* and the Examinant went together this Morning to *Strand-street* to Mr. *Higgins* his House near to a Coach-makers, where the said *Dominick* and the Examinant found him in Bed, who being informed by the aforesaid *Dominick Langton* who the Examinant was, desired by Mr. *Higgins* and the said *Dominick Langton* to relate to them what he the Examinant knew of the said *Jerry's* Discourse relating to the aforesaid Message and Letter from *Newstead* to *Lewis Meares*, and of the said Parchment, which the Examinant did immediately do, and told the same to the said *Higgins* ; that thereupon he the said *Higgins* desired the Examinant and the said *Dominick* to walk into his Dining-Room, and having slipt on his Night-Gown, came into the Dining-Room to the said *Dominick*, and the Examinant when after some Discourse which the said *Higgins*, and the Examinant, and his Brother *Dominick Langton* had together on the aforesaid Subject : He the said *Higgins* produced a Copy of his the said *Dominick's* Examination, which consisted as near as the Examinant can Remember of five or six Sheets or Leaves of Paper, and gave it to the Examinant to read, and at the same time the said Mr. *Higgins* pointed with his Finger (after he the said *Higgins* had opened the Book containing the said Examination) where and what part thereof the Examinant should read, whereupon the Examinant read a good part of what Mr. *Higgins* as aforesaid directed or pointed to him to read, but not all of it : But the Examinant cannot be positive whether it was at the Instance of the said *Dominick Langton*, that the Copy of the said Examination was produced to the Examinant, or whether it was Mr. *Higgins* did it of his own Motion.

Lewis Meares, Esq ; Appeared before your Committee, and being Examined, said, that he thought Mr. *Langton* was what at first he professed himself to be by his order and Habit, that on that Account he Entertained him in his House, and procured him an ample Certificate ; but some time after, a Neighbour of his one *Shorne* who was a Protestant, Marryed a *Papist*, whose Father desired the said *Meares* to prevail with the said *Langton* to Convert the said *Papist* ; that the said *Langton* prevented her Conversion, rather than inclined her to it ; the said *Lewis Meares* denies that he ever Signed any Parchment, or Paper with Captain *Newstead*, but a Bill of Fifteen Pounds at the Fair of *Ballymore*, there having been a

good understanding, or any Discourse between the said *Meares* and *Newstead* for Five or Six Years before.

It likewise appeared to the Committee by the Testimony of several Witnesses, that the said *Dominick Langton* had at several times Discountenanced and prevented several *Papists* from Embracing the *Protestant Religion*, since the said *Dominick Langton*'s pretended Conversion to the Church of *Ireland*, particularly that the said *Langton* had encouraged one *Roger Flattery* to continue a *Papist*, tho' he seemed inclinable to change his Religion: But the said *Langton* desired him to stick to his Principles, that he Discoursed him concerning Extream Unction, the said *Langton* told him it was a Sacrament, and that those were Dann'd that did not use it. Further said, that tho' *Langton* was reputed to be a *Protestant Minister*, yet he looked upon him to be a *Papist*.

Mary Dalton a *Papist* being Examined, said, that *Dominick Langton* prevented her becoming a *Protestant*. That she went to *Meares*'s House to the said *Langton*, that in *Meares*'s presence the said *Langton* used Arguments to induce her to be a *Protestant*, but afterwards having an opportunity by Mr. *Meares*'s absence dissuaded her from it, which was about Twelve Months ago. He the said *Langton* also told her, there was no Salvation without Fasting and Praying, which was not practised in the *Protestant Church*. He told her, she ought to pray to the *Virgin Mary* and other *Angels*, but not to do so in the presence of Mr. *Meares*. She asked him, what Religion was best? He said the *Popish*. She thought *Langton* a *Papist* in his Heart, that she came to Mr. *Meares*'s House on purpose to become a *Protestant*, but was prevented by the said *Langton*; that what Mr. *Langton* said to her, prevented her applying to any other Minister to be Converted.

Garret Dillon a *Protestant* about Six Years, he met Mr. *Langton* coming from Mr. *Magan*'s Burial, who told him it was better for him to have continued a *Papist* than become a *Protestant*. That as for his part, tho' he changed his Religion, he did it for Bread, but that he was a *Papist* in his Heart.

Francis Freeman a *Papist*, about three Years ago he was at Mr. *Meares*'s House, where he saw the said *Langton*, who said he would use his Endeavours to persuade the said *Freeman* to become a *Protestant*, but having an Opportunity, and being alone with the said *Langton*, he the said *Langton*, told him, that he the said *Freeman* was of the True-Religion, and bad him persist in it: That when he went to *Dublin* he would Satisfy him that it was the best; But if his Friends knew what he told him, it would do him a Prejudice: That Mr. *Meares* was always very kind to him: The said *Langton* Recommended him to one *Timothy Haven* a *Papist* in *Dublin*, to Converse with him till he the said *Langton* came to Town.

William Dalton a *Papist*, met the said *Langton* at Mr. *Magan*'s Burial, told him he thought the said *Magan* made a bad *Exit*; the said *Langton* made Answer, that he used all the Art he could to Prevail on him to Dye a *Papist*, but could not.

Michael Lynnam a *Papist*, being Examined, said that his Mother-in-Law being very ill, the said *Langton* went to see her, and asked her if he should Anoint her, that he could do it as well as any Priest, for the virtue of the Blessed Oyl with which his Hands were Anointed, still Remained on his Fingers; That he never

never was Un-priested by the Church of *Rome*; but that he still could Administer the *Sacrament*, and Anoint as well as any Priest whatsoever.

Neale Quin a Papist, said that Mr. *Langton* and Mr. *Meares* Desired him to turn to Church; the said *Langton* in the Presence of Mr. *Meares* used Arguments to persuade him to become a *Protestant*, but when he was in Bed the said *Langton*, came to him, and desired him not to turn to Church, but continue a *Papist* as he was; for he turned for Bread.

William Hutchinson a Protestant knows *Langton*, was acquainted with him in *Italy*, got him thro' Charity One Hundred and Twenty Cobs: Whenever any Vessel came in with Fish, Butter, or other things he always used to send him some, being a Merchant: That some time after the said *Langton* being prevented by the said *Hutchinson* from Christning a Child of a *Protestant* Father, he gave the said Examinant provoking and insolent Language; whereupon the said Examinant Struck him, on which the said *Langton* threatned to Stab him, and afterwards gave in Informations Charging the Examinant with Treason; on Account of which this Examinant was put to Trouble, and was in Danger of being Prosecuted, had he not made his Innocency appear to a *Cardinal* who was his Friend.

Henry Glover a Protestant, heard the said *Langton* last *Easter* was Twelve-Months when he was in Bed say his Prayers in *Irish*; That the said *Langton* talking of the *Pretender*, said whoever took the Oath (meaning the Oath of *Abjuration*) was perjured, That he Churched the Queen who was the *Pretender's* Mother, and that he saw Milk fall from her Breast on her Cloaths. That there would be Troublesome times soon. That he thought Mr. *Meares* his best Friend, but if he turned him out of his Living, he would be Revenged of him, That he the said *Langton* Turned for Bread, and would Turn again.

Jeremiah Warren a Protestant, said he was wrongfully charged with Accusing his Master *Lewis Meares*, Esq; and Refers to his Examination given in upon Oath.

Mr. *Packenham* who was Examined, said that he was one of the Commissioners when *Lewis Meares* and the rest of the Gentlemen in the County of *Westmeath* were Tryed; and that he would stand Engaged in Twenty Thousand Pounds Bonds for their Faithful Allegiance; That no Body believed one Word that *Langton* Swores; That he was lookt upon in the Country to be still a *Papish Priest*.

Captain *Newstead* being Examined, said he was never with Mr. *Langton* alone, but since *Langton* returned from *England* last, he came to him the said *Newstead*, and told him there was a necessity to bring him into the Accusation; That he had done him Wrong; that what he informed against him upon Oath, he was told by *Jeremiah Warren*; he begged his Pardon, and told him he hoped he would be soon able to make him Satisfaction; Denys that he ever signed any Paper or Parchment with *Lewis Meares*, for that there was not a good Understanding or any Discourse between them the said *Lewis Meares* and *Richard Newstead* for Five or Six Years before.

Mr. Jones being Examined, said that he had seen Mr. Higgins very often with Mr. Langton, and believes the said Higgins assisted the said Langton in Drawing the Examinations against him, and the rest of the Gentlemen; that he was Committed for a Night upon the said Information, and was Indicted as the rest were.

Mr. Lewis Meares an Attorney being Examined, said that there was a Report about the Town, that Mr. Higgins and Mr. Langton were giving in Examinations against Lewis Meares, Esq; and other Gentlemen of the County of Westmeath; That he saw Mr. Higgins at the Council-Chamber soon after, who said, that as sure as some Bread was in his Hand was Bread, there was Conspiracy against the Queen; and that Mr. Higgins was always with Mr. Langton: The said Higgins told this Examinant, he would have his Gown stript off his Back. That he was at the Fair of Ballymore, when Lewis Meares, Esq; Signed a Bill of Fifteen Pounds to Captain Newstead. That he was this third Day of August threatened by Mr. Higgins, without giving him any manner of Provocation or saying one Word to him, that he would have him upon his Marrow-Bones: That he was told by one Freeman, that one Rigby was one Sunday locked up with Mr. Higgins in his Chamber, Drawing the Examinations aforesaid against Lewis Meares, Esq; and the rest of the Gentlemen in the County of Westmeath.

Your Committee having Read several Examinations, heard all the Witnesses Examined, and having Debated the Matter, came to the following Resolutions.

Resolved,

That it is the Opinion of this Committee, That Dominick Langton Clerk, formerly a Fryar, since his pretending to become a Protestant, hath Discourte-
nanced and Obstructed the Conversion of several Papists to the Protestant Reli-
gion, and hath been Guilty of many other Scandalous Practices.

Resolved,

That it is the Opinion of this Committee, That the Examinations given in December last, by the said Dominick Langton, against Lewis Meares, Esq; and several other Protestant Gentlemen of the County of Westmeath, in which he Charges them with Entering into an Association against Her Majesty and Her Ministry, are Notoriously False, Groundless and Malicious.

Resolved,

That it is the Opinion of this Committee, That the House be moved that an Hurable Address be Presented to His Grace the Lord Lieutenant, to desire, That Her Majesty would be Pleased to order the said Dominick Langton to be struck off the Establishment of this Kingdom. 6 DE 58

BY Virtue of an Order of the House of Commons, I do appoint Francis Dickson to Print the Report from the Committee, appointed to Inspect the Examinations given in by Dominick Langton Clerk against Lewis Meares, Esq; and other Protestant Gentlemen of the County of Westmeath, and that no other Person do presume to Print the same.